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EDITORIAL COMMENT.

CHANGES OF A YEAR.—A little year ago the United States was professing great friendship for England—the Anglo-Saxon cry was at its height, and the compliments that were slung across the festive board were, as we then said, too gushing to be real. A little year ago the great American people had a foreign war on their hands and were in danger of being turned down by the European powers. England saved them this humiliation, and while England's aid was necessary they swore all kinds of friendship. But how is it to-day?

The Alaskan boundry question is the first matter of even remotely dangerous character to come up, and what do we find? The Americans absolutely refusing to submit the difficulty to peaceful arbitration, and endangering the peace of the two countries. There has been a complete turn over, and the twisting of the lion's tail is nearly if indeed it is not as popular as ever across the line. Their entire press is talking fight, and suggesting if we do not bow to their demands, they will wipe out the whole boundry line, annex Canada, and bid adieu to England as a power on the American Continent. And is this the change which one year has brought about—the change we predicted would follow the ending of the war.

As to war no right thinking person wants to see it if it can by any honorable means be avoided. A war between the United States and England, with Canada as the field of action would be criminal, and the government responsible for it deserving of the condemnation of every Christian man. At the same time, however, Canada must have justice. That is all she asks, and the refusal to

grant her that will throw the responsibility for whatever may happen upon the United States Government.

CANADA AND THE EMPIRE.—Canada is growing more and more imperial every year. The time was when the present party in power in Canada were charged with wanting to break away from the motherland and cast our lot with the United States; but since their coming into office that idea has been completely exploded. The present administration is the most imperialistic we have ever had in Canada. Every possible occasion is seized upon to express fidelity to the empire, the latest instance being the passing of resolutions only the other day in the House of Commons in support of the British position on the Transvaal question. This is going to the opposite extreme, but that is preferable to even a suspicion of disloyalty.

Another instance was the vetoing of the British Columbia Act excluding Japanese from entering the province under contract to work for companies or individuals. At the present time it is very desirable if not necessary to British interests in the far east that England and Japan should be on friendly terms, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier took the ground that it was the duty of Canada to sacrifice something in the interests of the empire. Lip loyalty was all well enough but we must do something substantial if we wished to be taken seriously. The point was well taken, and indicates that Canada, and both political parties in Canada, are for the Empire.

Another instance of the imperialistic importance Canada has assumed is the amount of weight that is given to her opinions in the pending disputes between the Imperial government and the government of the United States. The firm and uncompromising stand that the British government has taken on the side of Canada on every point, has been an object lesson to our American cousins, and an assurance to the people of this country that their interests are safe in the keeping of the Motherland.

On the whole this new trend of affairs must make for the broadening of the Canadian point of view. It will shake us out of that narrow provincialism which has been charged against us as one of our greatest faults, and will give us an interest in that greater world which cannot fail to aid us on the road to greatness in our own particular field. It is a healthy departure, and it is to be hoped a permanent one.